

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-31 remain pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 10, and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller, U.S. Patent No. 6,370,621 ("Keller") in view of Scott et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,748,900 ("Scott"). Claims 3, 4, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller in view of Scott and Craddock et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,005,851 ("Craddock"). Claims 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request reconsideration. Claims 2, 8, 9, 11, 16, and 17 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Keller is Excluded under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c)

A continued prosecution application (CPA) is filed herewith, giving the present application a filing date after November 29, 1999. Keller qualifies as prior art to the present application at most under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e), (f), or (g). Additionally, Keller and the present application were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by (or subject to an obligation of assignment to) Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. Pursuant to MPEP 706.02(I)(2)(II), the preceding statement is sufficient evidence to disqualify Keller under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) from being used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Since all rejections in the present application are made under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Keller, Applicants submit that the rejections are moot.

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

Applicants filed an additional IDS on January 17, 2003 (after the mailing date of the present Office Action). Applicants respectfully request consideration of the references supplied in the IDS and a return of the PTO-1449 form included therewith, initialed and signed by the Examiner evidencing such consideration.

Drawing Objection

The Official Draftsman objected to the drawings filed September 17, 1999. Applicants note that formal drawings were filed on April 26, 2000. Applicants respectfully request that the Official Draftsman review and approve the formal drawings.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5500-46200/LJM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LJ Merkel', is written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence J. Merkel

Reg. No. 41,191

AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800

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